

10-1-2006

Judge Telesca Wins 2006 Jaeckle Award

UB Law Forum

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum

Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (2006) "Judge Telesca Wins 2006 Jaeckle Award," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 19 : No. 1 , Article 58.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol19/iss1/58

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in UB Law Forum by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact lawscholar@buffalo.edu.

Alumni Association

Judge Telesca wins 2006 Jaeckle Award



Hon. Richard Arcara, Chief U.S. District Judge, with Hon. Michael A. Telesca '55, U.S. District Judge

His career on the bench has encompassed county, state and federal judgeships

Hon. Michael A. Telesca '55, whose career on the bench has encompassed county, state and federal judgeships, received the 2006 Jaeckle Award at a Nov. 18 luncheon.

Telesca has served since 1982 as a U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of New York, and was chief justice of that court from 1989 to 1996. He continues as a District Court judge, based in Rochester.

Presentation of the award, the highest honor bestowed by the Law School and the Law Alumni Association, began with a musical soundtrack: a song composed for the occasion and sung by the Acappellants, to the tune of Billy Joel's *For the Longest Time*.

In the Western District of New York you will find most days in federal court behind his desk a man who's known as Mike Telesca and he's been presiding for the longest time...

The lightheartedness gave way to sincerity as a series of speakers addressed the honoree, a previous winner of the Distinguished Alumnus Award and a Buffalo Law Review award.

Said Dennis R. McCoy '77, president of the UB Law Alumni Association: "When I think about these events, and particularly this event, I think about the people who receive this award. Certainly it is an honor. But I also reflect on my own life and my own practice and how the example they set for me can be significant in terms of my life. I think the



Hon. Richard Arcara, Chief U.S. District Judge, compares his awards to Judge Telesca's.

me. It is just how he is."

And Professor William R. Greiner, the 2002 recipient of the award, said in presenting the award to Telesca: "There is an old saying that you are known by the company you keep. I think I can say without quibble from anyone that every single recipient of the Jaeckle Award today feels better about the award and themselves because you are joining their company. You are a great role model for all of us."

The honoree thanked the Law School "for accepting me," and cited supportive professors including Albert R. Mugel and Jacob D. Hyman. He noted that his was a success story that began with his mother and father, immigrants to America. "Blind faith in the



Former UB President William R. Greiner presents the Jaeckle Award to Judge Telesca as his wife Ethel and Law Alumni President Dennis R. McCoy '77 look on.



Ethel Telesca congratulates her husband with a kiss.

example of Michael Telesca is something we can all take away from here, no matter where we are in our careers."

Vice Dean Alan S. Carrel first delivered remarks by Dean Nils Olsen, recounting Olsen's fond memories of a tour of Rochester led by the judge. "His love and enthusiastic appreciation for his hometown was readily apparent," Olsen wrote. "We stopped at his favorite bakery, and he bought me two loaves of what he assured me was the best Italian bread in Rochester. ... He is a man and a judge for whom I have the highest respect and admiration."

For his own part, Carrel said: "We are honoring tonight a uniquely gifted person with insight, intellect, charisma, integrity and courage. We are honoring a judge who has spent his entire career protecting the rights of people. As a judge, he is a role model for all other judges to follow, and as a person, he is a role model for all other people to follow."

Hon. Richard J. Arcara, chief judge for Western District of New York, said: "You cannot imagine how much of a mentor he has been to me over the years. Of course, this is not unique to

American dream led my parents from a small village in south-central Italy to this country," Telesca said. "They came to this country without the ability to speak the language, without knowledge of the customs, and without money."

He also acknowledged his wife, Ethel, and President Ronald Reagan, who nominated him to the District Court seat and called "to ask my permission to send the nomination to the Senate. I will never forget it."